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Armstrong Notches First Women's Golf Win With Victory At Newberry Invitational





Posted: Feb 20, 2012

HILTON HEAD, S.C. - The Armstrong Atlantic State University women's golf team went wire-to-wire in capturing the first team title in the seven year history of the program, shooting a final-round 317 on Monday to win the 4th Annual Newberry College Invitational by 22 strokes at Moss Creek Golf Club in Hilton Head, S.C.

The Pirates started the day with a 13-stroke lead over Lander, but carded the day's best round for a second straight day to pull away with the victory with a 628 total. Host Newberry shot a 320 on Monday to finish second with a two-day 650 total on the Par 74 - 5801 yard course, while Lander shot a 333 to finish third with a 657 total. USC Beaufort (667) and Pfeiffer (685) rounded out the Top 5 team scores.

The battle for the individual title came down to the back nine as first-round leader and sophomore **Jenna Birch** trailed teammate and sophomore **Kristen Sammarco** by one stroke at the turn. Birch birdied the par-4 No. 12 hole while Sammarco bogied the hole and Birch then played the final six holes at even par to clinch the title in just her second tournament played as a Pirate.

Birch shot a four-over-par 78 to finish the tournament with a two-day five-over-par 153 total, three strokes ahead of Sammarco, who shot an 81 to finish with a 156 total. Armstrong also had the third place finisher in junior **Kelly Pearce**, who shot an 81 to finish with a two-day 157 total.

Senior **Kim Knox** carded a 79 to finish the tournament tied for 12th place individually with a 166 total while senior **Victoria Bennett** shot an 87 on Monday to finish tied for 21st with a 170 total.

The win is the first for Armstrong since women's golf became a varsity program in 2005-06 and it is also the first tournament win for Armstrong golf - men or women - since the men captured the Liberty Spring Invite at the Crosswinds on March 12-13, 2007.

Armstrong returns to action on March 5-6, hosting the Armstrong Pirate Women's Invitational at Savannah Quarters Country

Club in Pooler, Ga.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF THE PREMIER NCAA DIVISION II COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, FEATURING 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 97 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 148 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES AND 302 ALL-AMERICANS.

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